

American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, the U.S. Council for International Engineering Practice, and the Engineering Advisory Council of the University of Arkansas.

Albert Miller was a faithful and dedicated husband to his wife Lynette, the loving father to Alex and Allison, and the proud grandfather to three grandchildren. Throughout his life, he was dedicated to serving his fellow citizens as a leader in both his profession and his community, and he deserves our respect and gratitude for his priceless contributions. He was my friend and I forever will be honored by that friendship.

On behalf of the Congress, I extend sympathies to Al's family, and gratitude for all he did to make the world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VELMA HICKEY,
OUTGOING PRESIDENT, NORCO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of Norco, CA, is exceptional. The city of Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Mrs. Velma Hickey is one of these individuals.

On January 26, 2002, Mrs. Hickey will be honored as the outgoing 2001 president of the Norco Chamber of Commerce. Through the years, Velma has served as a director on the Board of the Chamber, the Virginia Weidman Home Arts Competition Chairman, Installation Banquet Chair and most recently the Norco Fair Chairman in 2001. She is an active member of the Republican Women's Club, United We Stand America organization, and the vice president of the Norco Historic Society.

Velma Hickey's leadership has led to numerous awards and recognitions. The highlights include: Volunteer of the Year Award from United We Stand America in 1990 and Principal for a Day received from the Corona/Norco Unified School District in 2001, and Lecturer at St. Mel's Catholic Church in Norco from 1987 thru 1990. A graduate of UC Irvine, Velma has a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology.

Velma's tireless, engaged action has propelled the city of Norco forward in a positive and progressive manner. I know that all of Norco is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of the community and salute her as she departs. I look forward to continuing to work with her for the good of our community in the future.

THE MATURE RESPONSE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the January 20, 2002, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "The Seriousness of War."

The current war on terrorism is the appropriate response to horrific and unspeakable terrorist attacks on U.S. soil which resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people. Under no sadder circumstances could the United States have launched a war. Let us not forget the pain of those circumstances and thus use our incredible capabilities to ensure that the likelihood of similar attacks is greatly diminished for not only future Americans, but also for others around the world.

[From the Sunday World-Herald, Jan. 20, 2002]

THE SERIOUSNESS OF WAR

Pacifism is a legitimate point of view, but its principles seem a woefully impractical response to terrorists who are unmoved by moral arguments.

This thought is prompted by writings from readers who are uncomfortable with the American government's response to the Sept. 11 Osama bin Laden attacks. One such writing by Robert Williams, an Iowa farmer and retired minister, included a bitter denunciation. He said Americans "seek and improve ever more lethal weapons, and we use them now with barely restrained excitement and pride."

Williams is right about one thing—weapons improvement. But in many cases the result has been a dramatic increase in precision, making civilian deaths less likely. That is a reason for some of the pride.

Certainly the nation is not romanticizing war. Not as Americans did in 1861, for example, when picnickers lightheartedly camped near Bull Run with the soon-to-be dashed expectation of enjoying a quick rout of Confederate forces. Europeans cheered during parades at the start of World War I, mistakenly anticipating that the conflict would be brief and glorious.

In 2001, most Americans approached the war in Afghanistan with a commendable seriousness of purpose. They have not cheered the deaths of innocent Afghans (in contrast to Osama bin Laden, whose cackling over the murder of the Sept. 11 victims was captured on videotape). They have supported the enormous humanitarian effort with which America extended its hand to the Afghan people while liberating them from their Taliban and al-Qaida tormentors.

American armed forces, moreover, have carried out their duties honorably. Perhaps no military operation in history has gone to greater lengths to use technology to minimize civilian casualties. An Afghanistan-based correspondent for USA Today recent noted that "despite their popular image as modern-day Rambos, Green Berets are, in fact, a remarkably low-key and cerebral group." One Green Beret told the reporter: "Our mission is not necessarily to outfight the enemy, although we can do that if we have to. We would rather outthink them."

Americans can be proud that our defense lies in the capable hands of level-headed individuals. And that our nation has responded to the assault against us with commendable maturity.

AMERICAN FLAG FLIES OVER REBUILT DOGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in November 2000, the Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, VA, was completely demolished as a result of a tragic and extensive fire. The students soon found that the school flag also was lost in the fire.

As members of Congress, we have the privilege of having flags flown over the U.S. Capitol—the symbol of our democracy—and I was honored to present one of those new American flags to the students and teachers at Dogwood Elementary.

The school is now rebuilt and ready to reopen. I want to share with our colleagues the following message provided to me by Linda Thetford, assistant principal at Dogwood Elementary School, about the importance of the American flag to the school and its students.

On behalf of the Dogwood Elementary School we consider it an honor to be selected to receive an American Flag that has flown over the United States capitol. The tragedies of recent world events provide a backdrop for our local tragedy and have provided opportunities for our students to understand the significance of all Americans together to rebuild our future.

In November 2000, the Dogwood Elementary School in Reston suffered a shocking crisis when the entire school was demolished due to an extensive fire. The students, staff, parents and community experienced a tremendous loss as they tried to cope with this catastrophe. Once students were reassigned to temporary classrooms they gathered to raise the flag, which was a daily routine. However they quickly realized the American flag had burned along with all the other building contents.

The 530 students of Dogwood take great pride in representing their community and their country. Many students' families originate from countries throughout the world and speak over 22 languages. While the students attend school, many of their parents have studied to become American citizens. The gift of an American Flag would be a fitting tribute, not only to those heroes of September 11, but also to those in our community who have displayed the American spirit by coming together in time of crisis to rebuild Dogwood Elementary.

During the past year a tremendous number of people have collaborated together to rebuild Dogwood Elementary School. Many individuals have donated their professional skills and talents to help create a wonderful new school for the children of Reston. Thanks to all the dedication and continued effort we are now ready to open our re-built school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: January 23, 2002: Rollcall vote 3, on passage of